Harry J. Corbitt Superintendent



Major Kevin G. Molinari Troop Commander, Troop C

## STATE OF NEW YORK NEW YORK STATE POLICE

Troop "C" Major Crimes Unit Rt. 7 Box 300 Sidney, New York 13838-0300 (607) 561-7400 Received & Inspected AUG 1 1 2008

FCC Mail Room

Ms. Mailene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

August 5, 2008

In the matter of Verizon Wireless / Alltel Corporation Transfer of Control Application, WT Docket No. 08-95

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As a member of the New York State Police and a "telephone guy," I think several considerations from the Law Enforcement prospective need addressed in your consideration of the captioned application.

In the past 30 years Thaving been involved in every demand Law Enforcement makes of our Telephone and Telecommunications Service providers. From distraught parents with missing children to investigations of heinous crimes and terrorist threats, the organized services of Verizon Wireless have surpassed, in my opinion, the operations of all the major carriers in its innovative commitment to a timely accurate response. Often finding a solution to an emergency requires a roadmap of which company offers what response — who offers precision location absent a 911 call, text content, how many reports need be obtained to cover the full activity on a phone (Web, text, photo and call details), who roams on whose network and in what area, who will preserve records pending a legal demand. This merger is part of the solution — Verizon Wireless has an outstanding organization in place with trained, committed, analysts and solutions to these and developing concerns.

The full spectrum of emergency and forensic communication services and an active training commitment provided by Verizon Wireless to Law Enforcement will be augmented by this merger and will certainly be a massive upgrade to the services currently provided by Alltel. The service offered to the customers of both companies as well as the roaming affiliates and rural carriers, via the resources provided to Law Enforcement, will be enhanced. This will be a benefit to all. Alltel currently has several regional security offices and an after hours 800 contact number. The 13 million Alltel customers in 34 states and 57 rural markets will be included in Verizon's protective umbrella and single 800 number.

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## **CALEA**

This merger will allow access to larger geographic area for connectivity through one carrier by eliminating the multi-company soft-shoe needed to maintain surveillance on a suspect due to roaming agreements. Further, the two companies both use the CDMA (code division multiple access) cellular technology, so integrating the networks is possible. Not only by providing CALEA access to a greater geographic area on the new merged network, but also the network products not unavailable with Alltel such as text message content and photo retention will be an added benefit.

## **FCC Considerations**

This merger is consistent with the goals of the PSHSB as it will certainly ".... further strengthen and enhance the security and reliability of the nation's communications infrastructure and public safety and emergency response capabilities that will better enable the FCC to assistate public, first responders, law enforcement, hospitals, the communications industry and all levels of government in the event of a natural disaster, pandemic or terrorist attack." Additionally, this merger will address several of the Key Themes of the National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee including: Strengthening national security, Enhancing cybersecurity, Maintaining the global communications infrastructure, Assuring communications for disaster response, and Addressing critical infrastructure interdependencies and dependencies.

As Law Enforcement continually looks for ways to serve and protect the public, we must take this opportunity to request your expeditious consideration of this merger. In the most basic terms I can express, timely consideration will save lives.

AMA

Respectfully,

Leslie T. Hyman

Senior Investigator

Troop "C" Major Crimes Unit